

Developmental Disabilities Council
Self-Determination and Employment Workgroup
November 18, 2004 – Federal Way

DRAFT November 18, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Present: Diana Zottman, Chair, Connee Bush, MJ Sizemore, Mike Raymond, Mike Hatch, Rita Wang and Vicki Foster

Absent: Clara Link, Sherri Huwe

Staff: Clare Billings and Stephanie Benfield

Guests: Karen Hoffman & Shawn Huntley

Call to order/Agenda

Diana called the meeting to order, and asked if there were any adjustments to the agenda. No adjustments were necessary, and introductions were made.

Approval of Minutes

Mike Raymond moved the minutes be approved as written; Mike Hatch seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Big Picture Workplan

Staff went over the Big Picture Workplan and identified where planning steps need to fit into workgroup agendas over the next meetings in order to meet the timeline for developing the next State Plan. Vickie asked if there could be oral presentations as well as written materials. Vickie suggested having DVR present and Diana suggested having a presentation on the status of sheltered workshops and day programs. Connee talked about the issues tribes face in employment, and they should be at the table. MJ suggested adding DDD to the list and transportation as an issue related to employment. It was acknowledged that transportation issues cross all workgroups and it might be important to have a presentation on joint issues at a full Council meeting. Members pointed out several issues like transportation, transition school to work, employment, health care and housing are inter-related and would benefit other workgroups. It was suggested to have a panel including someone from OSPI, DVR, and maybe a county coordinator.

Connee suggested working with DVR's Rehabilitation Council. The chair is Dwanye French and he had expressed an interest in collaborating with other groups.

Clare pointed out the workgroup's task timeline needs to be adjusted to meet the overall State Plan timeline so the workgroup would have the information needed to make decisions in time for recommending to the full Council. In March, staff will be reporting on the research information about systems, gaps, and other agency's efforts. So other presentations could be planned to coincide with the March meeting presentation to the full Council.

Diana suggested that workgroup focus on transition school to work and transportation. Rita asked if discussion about the status of sheltered workshops be included in the transition school to work and employment presentations. Staff noted the new DDD Employment of Adults policy may leave some folks without day activities, depending on how it gets implemented and recommended the workgroup monitor this closely to see the impact on adults and families.

Diana noted under the topic area of Transition the workgroup would want more information on sheltered workshops vs. integrated employment. OSPI's funding for employment supports ends when a child graduates, and if a child graduated at 18, no services are available until 21 through DVR. The counties get transition funding from DDD. Mike and Diana suggested that sheltered workshops be broken out, this funding is also through the counties

and we would want to hear from a provider/vender. We should also be looking at DDD and counties policies. If sheltered workshops are phasing out, what are the plans for folks served and what choices do they have.

Under the topic area of transportation we need to know about providers, coordination, and training for providers. Transportation provider staff really needs awareness training about people with disabilities. We want to hear from transportation providers ACCT, transportation in rural areas where there is no public transportation. The group agreed it would be good to be focused and targeted in our requests for information. Clare invited workgroup members to attend an upcoming WISE conference in which members could get a lot of valuable info and report back to the workgroup on what they learned.

WCCD funding Nathan Hale High School Peer Group update

Staff reported the project is collaborating with DDD and they have a sustainability plan. The project similar to another King county effort but serving a different group of students. WCCD plans to connect with mentors that have been trained through the Self Advocates as mentors project and include them where possible.

WorkSource Center Employment Project Presentation

Karen Hoffman and Shawn Huntley presented on the status of the WorkSource Center Employment Project being conducted by Rehabilitation Enterprises of Washington (REW). The project has conducted an assessment of the status of the system to establish baseline on the ability of the system to serve people with disabilities. The assessment was conducted using focus groups at six sites around the state – Olympia, Snohomish, Spokane, Wenatchee, Bellingham and Burien. The good news is they are all moving toward universal access. Baseline assessed: technology accommodations, attitudes towards people with disabilities, and cooperation with local community rehabilitation programs.

The good news is the WorkSource system is moving towards universal access. Preliminary findings indicate WorkSource Centers have different definitions of disabilities, they provide good services if the client is self-directed and only need to access core services such as job search, it's the wrong door if more extensive help is needed and lack of adequate funding limits what they can do.

One key barrier identified is that businesses were not at the table resulting in some inappropriate

referrals that have hindered progress in people with disabilities getting jobs through WorkSource. Next steps in the project include analyzing the results of the study, involving businesses and developing a business focus, sharing values, conducting a pilot project and working with the labor market to ascertain the true unemployment rate.

Update on DVR Decision Packages

Connee talked about three decision packages DVR has submitted to OFM. One is for transitional funding for people on DVR's wait list in the priority category 2. Second is for funding for Mental Health clubhouses. DVR's 3rd decision package is around transition age children in schools. To identify what children's needs are so they can identify them as workers, and prevent their falling into the juvenile and then adult justice systems. 20,000 18 year olds have special needs and DVR can serve 4,000. Clare asked what percent of these new services would go to people with developmental disabilities. Connee responded that currently 30% of DVR's clients have DD.

Report to the Council

There were no items to bring forward to the Full Council.

January Agenda:

Status of DVR Decision Packages

Report on Leadership Development

Report on Self-Advocacy

Discussion on Microboards, self-employment, PASS
IRWE, Ticket to Work

Meeting was adjourned.